

# **Have You Seen The State Reptile?**

## **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Environmental Education Program**

**Grade:** Fourth

**Theme:** The state symbols of Nevada represent the special conditions found throughout the state of Nevada and highlighted here at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

**Goal:** Students will become familiar with the diversity of the cultural and natural history found in Nevada. Through activities students will explore the state symbols of Nevada.

**Objectives:** Students will be able to –

- Describe the importance of state/national symbols
- List at least three Nevada state symbols
- List characteristics that support why a particular symbol was chosen

### **Before the Classroom Program:**

Have students research the Nevada symbols: mammal, reptile, flower, trees, bird, rock, mineral, fossil, flag, song, grass, etc. On a state map, have them plot where they would most likely find these symbols.

Discuss what makes Nevada different from other states in terms of its habitats. You may want to include the following: climate, ecosystems, mountain ranges, deserts, habitat types, and animals found in Nevada. Look at the plant/mammal/bird lists for Red Rock Canyon that are available at the Visitor Center and compare.

### **During the Classroom Program:**

The ranger will display and discuss the state symbols found at Red Rock Canyon. Live Tortoises may be available seasonally for limited size groups. There will be a game of Nevada State Symbol Jeopardy as a review.

### **After the Classroom Program:**

Nevada has many symbols, including a state artifact (the tule duck decoy), but we do not have a state insect. Students can research and discuss other things that might be good symbols for the state or research what would be a good insect. You can then send letters to your local state legislator to make your nomination for a state symbol official.